

In Maiduguri, there
443 is an Alkali court within the confines of the market area which handles
• [698] all cases occurring in the market. Each category of goods or services
sold has its own section and, as in town planning, the butcher section
is almost always to leeward (southwest) of the market. Market fees
for stalls are exacted in the larger centres such as Maiduguri and Nguru.
In Magumeri, stalls seemed to be allotted on a "first come, first served"
basis except that sellers always take up positions in the particular
section of the market given over to their commodity or service.

In Magumeri on non-market days, there are daily stalls in
various parts of the town where sundries such as kerosene, cigarettes,
flashlight batteries, sugar, small quantities of meat, grain, vege-
tables and cooked foods can be obtained. That these supplies are limit-
ed is indicated by the shortage which obtains if some larger assemblage
[123] of people are meeting in town between market days. One of the writer's
[435] "followers" (tada njima) had the privilege of taking cigarettes from
the former's house stores during ceremonies when town supplies were
depleted and prices rose ten to fifteen per cent above normal. The
cigarettes were returned in kind on market day when they could be pur-
chased by the follower at standard prices.

[162] In larger centres, such as Maiduguri, Gaidam and Nguru,
where the population is over ten thousand, the presence of larger num-
bers of full-time specialists necessitates that the market remain open
[805] every day. However, the weekly tradition still obtains even in these
places in that the day upon which the market used to be held weekly is
still its most active and populous occasion, and the market is still re-
ferred to by its old weekly day name. Thus in Maiduguri, the Monday mar-
ket is held every day although on Monday it still attracts many more
people and goods than any other day of the week.